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**From:** Smith, Rhonda [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F330A7685DA343A7915B949AA1AB900C-SMITH, RHONDA]  
**Sent:** 2/26/2015 2:00:25 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Israel [Anderson.Israel@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Second Northside Neighborhoods Sustainability Planning Workshop in Corpus Christi

Israel -- send her a note that says that all of the information you have are in your trip report.

*Rhonda M. Smith, MBA, MA*  
Acting Deputy Director  
Office of Environmental Justice  
and Tribal Affairs  
214.665.8006

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**From:** Anderson, Israel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 4:06 PM  
**To:** Smith, Rhonda  
**Subject:** FW: Second Northside Neighborhoods Sustainability Planning Workshop in Corpus Christi

Rhonda,  
Some of these questions are not possible for me to answer as they make no sense. My summary stands as the report that I have on the Saturday meeting that I attended.

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**From:** Benjamin, Agatha  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015 12:14 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Israel; Smith, Rhonda; Blanco, Arturo; Tejada, Matthew  
**Cc:** Buzzelle, Stanley; Ruhl, Suzi  
**Subject:** RE: Second Northside Neighborhoods Sustainability Planning Workshop in Corpus Christi

Israel,  
The answers to following questions would better aid in understanding the State/City and community positions on the EJ Northside Neighborhoods Sustainability Planning Workshop.

- 1) What was the additional topic session discussed at the 2/21/15 following workshop?;
- 2) Do you know if the person that used the analogy was a property owner, renter or investor/developer?
- 3) Please elaborate more on what the home/property owner comments/discussions were; how were they addressed?
- 4) What was some of the specific discussions from each tables?
- 5) Did TXDOT and the City appeared to be open to anything different from the last meeting- Jan 29, 2015?
- 6) Did they used the same techniques and questions as used at the last meeting?
- 7) What specific did they say about the buyout? (The previous comments from the Northside Neighborhoods were they were being forced out, due to location and they are afraid they would not get a fair compensation for the land value.)
- 8) Did they implement any recommendations from the last EPA-HUB-TXDOT and FHWA conference call?
- 9) Do you know what the city discussed on yesterday- 2/24/15; that was different than the discussions held on the 2/21/15?
- 10) Do you know if the inclement weather had an effect on City meeting on yesterday- 2/24/15?
- 9) Can you share what is being discussed with TXDOT.

Let's talk when you get an opportunity, so we can discussion the Texas Action Plan as related to Corpus Christi.

Agatha Benjamin  
Environmental Scientist

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**From:** Anderson, Israel

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 24, 2015 11:28 AM

**To:** Smith, Rhonda; Blanco, Arturo; Tejada, Matthew; Benjamin, Agatha

**Cc:** Buzzelle, Stanley; Ruhl, Suzi

**Subject:** Second Northside Neighborhoods Sustainability Planning Workshop in Corpus Christi

This past Saturday, February 21, 2015 I attended this TXDOT/Federal Highway Administration conducted workshop. I represented EPA. HUD was not present at this meeting. This workshop was conducted in much the same manner as the January 29, 2015 workshop had been conducted. One notable exception was the inclusion of an additional topics category of breakout sessions. This allowed for discussion of topics other than the standard ones that had been used at the January 29, 2015 meeting. Those included Health & Safety, Neighborhood & Housing, Mobility & Access, and Economic growth & Employment. These breakouts received significant discussion but the additional topics session garnered a significant level of participation.

The primary issue in the additional topics discussion centered around the desire for buyouts of the Hillcrest residents. Many of the participants in this group feel that the discussions of the impact of the bridge construction is a mere symptom of the larger problem of industrial pollution and expansion. One man used the analogy of a dead flower and said that the neighborhood cannot be resurrected by adding water to it or removing weeds. He said you have to dig it out and plant a new flower in a new place.

One weakness I noted was the role of the primary facilitator. This individual needed to be stronger and more assertive. The individual breakout discussion facilitators were pretty good and were provided by TXDOT and FHWA. The next step is the development of what TXDOT calls the Livability Plan for Hillcrest and Washington-Coles which purports to include the mitigation efforts that are going to be required due to the impacts of the Harbor Bridge. The plan will be shared with all stakeholders to include the city of Corpus Christi whose planning staff were on the agenda to briefly mention the February 24, 2015 public meeting conducted by the city to share with the public the city of Corpus Christi's Downtown Development Plan which includes the north side neighborhoods of Hillcrest and Washington-Coles. Citizens in attendance were encouraged to come to this public meeting to learn more about the city's plan.

This meeting in my view seemed to have been more productive than the January 29, 2015 meeting despite the fact that only 20 to 22 residents actually attended Saturday's meeting. There were as many government employees present as there were citizens.

Christopher Amy of TXDOT plans to give me a call this week to have some follow on discussions.